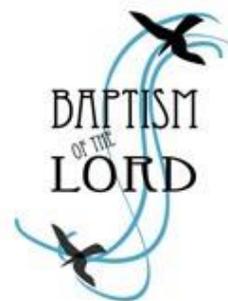


Morning Worship

The Baptism of Christ

January 10, 2021 (Online)



Ringling of the Bell

Our Life Together

The Solemn Declaration

Prelude Music

Call to Worship

The heavens open. The Spirit descends.

Jesus emerges from the water.

And a voice echoes through the blue expanse.

"This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am well-pleased."

Jesus is named. Claimed.

We come to the water. We remember we are named. Claimed.

Can it be so? What a thing to be named. Claimed.

Let us worship the one who names and claims us still.

Prayer of Invocation

Creating, Calling, and Faithful God,
we come to this time and place to be with you,
to worship you, and to learn from you.

May our time together
be like your creation of light in the darkness
that you called good.

May it be that you would call us good
while we respond to your call and as we listen to you. **Amen.**

Call to Confession

You and I are now the ones who step forth out of the safe waters of baptism, to bring hope, to share a word of grace, to carry healing into the brokenness of the lives around us. Let us confess how we still struggle to follow in faith wherever Jesus leads us. Join me as we pray, saying,

Confession

Timeless God,
you cast Light into sin's dark places
and call us your Beloved.

Forgive us:

when we still linger in the shadows;
when we treat others in hurtful ways;
when we speak ill of your friends.

As he knelt in the waters of Jordan,
you proclaimed Jesus as your Child,
pointing to him as the way to you.

Forgive us:

when we put ourselves ahead of him;
when we think he is no longer needed;
when we fail to see him in the broken of our world.

Baptized and blessed in your living waters,
you would have us be your servants in our time.

Forgive us:

when we fail to welcome the stranger;
when we refuse to forgive as we should;
when we believe we are too good to kneel down
and tie the shoes of the lost, the least, the last, the little.

...time of silent prayer...

Assurance

Touched by the waters of life, fed at the feast of grace and hope, embraced in the warmth of God's love and hopes - this is good news!

Blessed by baptism's tears, called to servanthood by the Beloved, filled with the peace of the Spirit, we are indeed God's people - redeemed, restored, refreshed to serve. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayer of Commitment (inspired by Isaiah 43:2)

'When you pass through the waters, I will be with you...' (Isaiah 43:2)

God of many names

We give ourselves into the hand of your continuing creativity;

Our past, with its joys and triumphs, its failures and regrets,

Our present, with its struggles and accomplishments,

its hopes and setbacks,

Our future, with its fears and freedom,

its pain and possibility,

trusting the Spirit that breathes life,

trusting the love that will not let us go,

trusting the promise of the Word made flesh.

Scripture

Psalm 29

Acts 19: 1-7

Mark 1: 4-11

Morning Message

Pastor Jim

Baptism and Renewal of Baptismal Vows

At home: encourage people to come to worship with a small bowl of water to use in blessing themselves at the appropriate time.

Introduction

Our God created new life forms and brought them up from the waters of chaos,
embraced them, and called them good.

Jesus, baptized in the river Jordan by John the Baptist,
became living water for us and embraces all of us.

Jesus embraces those who are poor, oppressed, marginalized
and all others who come seeking.

We follow Jesus with our Baptism,
marking a starting place for new life and new ways of being.

We join Jesus in love and service.

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to see, feel, and hear again the vows of
Baptism.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises (from Book of Worship)

Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your Baptism?

I do.

Do you recognize the call of God to be God's people always?

I do.

Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry?

I do

Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each
day?

I do.

Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God?

I do.

In renewing your baptismal vows,
remember your Baptism as a mark of acceptance

and welcome into the care of Christ's church
where you may begin again your Christian faith and life.

A Unison Prayer:

**O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received.
We thank you that you claim us,
that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us,
that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling.
In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world.
Establish us to be places of refreshment.
Root us and nurture us in love,
that with all your people, that we may rightly and justly serve you.
Fill us with your fullness
that our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen.**

Morning Prayer

Our Lord's Prayer

Symbolic Offering

Offertory Music

Dedication

**Faithful God,
Bless us in our baptismal calling
to be in ministry of showing hospitality to others.
We offer the gifts that we have been given to be used
not for conquest and dominance,
but for use in liberating the poor and hurting people
who pray for our liberation as well as their own.
Receive and multiply our gifts for life-giving ministry. Amen.**

Benediction

Thank you, God, for blessing us with memories of Jesus' baptism and ours.
Thank you for removing our reluctance, doubt, and fears,
for replacing them with courage and commission.
We go forth with your calling, direction, and blessing. Amen.

***Three-fold Amen**

#812 (NCH)

*Postlude

beloved